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DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20520

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4/24/82  
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September 16, 1977

Mr. Costas G. Alexandrides  
Professor of Management  
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University Plaza  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Alex:

I'm really sorry that your letter of June 8 seems to have gotten lost in the bureaucratic maze.

I certainly understand and share your concern over the problems and suffering on Cyprus. I also want to assure you that the Department hasn't ignored the Cyprus human rights situation or the deeper historical problems of the island to which it is tied.

We are committed to the achievement of a just and lasting settlement on Cyprus. We are convinced that only in the context of such a settlement can the more enduring effects of the 1974 fighting--chiefly the refugee problem--be satisfactorily resolved. Over the past six months, this Administration has actively sought to bring the parties of the dispute together and to convince them of the need for meaningful negotiations. We are continuing in this effort and we intend to persist.

I am happy to report that there have been limited improvements in particular aspects of the Cyprus situation over the past several months. There is clear evidence that in January 1977 the Turkish Cypriot authorities abandoned their apparent earlier policy of evicting Greek Cypriots from their homes in the northern part of the island. United Nations representatives on the island have verified that all Greek Cypriots who have left the north over roughly the past six months did so

on their own accord. Some special security measures in the north are being gradually removed as the situation stabilizes. Some progress is also being made towards establishing an intercommunal commission to investigate reports of persons missing since the 1974 fighting. We certainly hope this trend continues and we will do whatever possible to encourage it to do so.

Thank you for your kind words and for sending the information about Cyprus.

Sincerely,

Patricia M. Derian  
Assistant Secretary for  
Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs

Drafted by:KHill/lj

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